

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAMA 01888 231118Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CCO-00 PASO-00 /009 W
-----083601 231934Z /47 42

R 230425Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6554
INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

UNCLAS MANAMA 1888

FOR H AND SCS

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM BRODHEAD:

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CDES, BA
SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS - JOHN ARAM VARJABEDIAN

REF: MANAMA 1768

1. WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 10, 1978
CONVINCING THE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS OF JOHN ARAM
VARJABEDIAN, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FROM
BAHRAIN'S PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES THAT THE BODY BE
EXHUMED AND CREMATED. THE REQUEST WILL BE PASSED ON TO
BOTH THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR FINAL APPROVAL IF THE FOLLOWING
CONDITIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO MRS VARJABEDIAN.

2. THE CONCURRENCE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTORATE IS
BASED ON THE CONDITION THAT SPECIALISTS BE BROUGHT TO
BAHRAIN TO PERFORM THE EXHUMATION AS THERE ARE NO SUCH
SPECIALISTS IN BAHRAIN. THE EMBASSY WILL UNDERTAKE TO
LOCATE SUCH PERSONNEL. IN THE ONLY PREVIOUS CASE OF
EXHUMATION IN BAHRAIN A TEAM OF THREE SPECIALISTS WAS
BROUGHT IN FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THIS APPEARS TO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MANAMA 01888 231118Z

BE MOST LIKELY SOURCE AGAIN. FULL COSTS FOR THESE

SPECIALISTS -- FEES, TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING -- WILL HAVE
TO BE BORNE BY THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED. A PRELIMINARY
ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOR THIS SERVICE, BASED ON UK
AVAILABILITY, IS \$5,000.00.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ASK THE BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT TO BEAR THE COSTS OF THE CREMATION FOR TWO REASONS. CREMATION IS GENERALLY NOT PERMITTED UNDER ISLAMIC LAW WHICH IS WHY MR VARJABEDIAN'S BODY WAS NOT CREMATED IN QATAR IMMEDIATELY. IN ADDITION, THE CREMATORIUM THAT WAS TO HAVE BEEN USED IS OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE BAHRAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY NOT THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, AND THEREFORE ITS MALFUNCTION CANNOT BE HELD TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN. THE COSTS FOR THE CREMATION, INCLUDING THE SERVICES OF TECHNICIAN BROUGHT FROM SAUDI ARABIA, WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$1120.00.

4. COSTS FOR TRANSPORTING THE CREMATED REMAINS TO THE U.S. WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$235.00.

5. THE EMBASSY KNOWS FROM MRS VARJABEDIAN'S LETTER THAT SHE WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THE COSTS OUTLINED ABOVE, AND WE ARE TRULY SORRY THAT THEY ARE SO HIGH.THEY ARE REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIABLE, HOWEVER, IF ONE BEARS IN MIND THAT BOTH EXHUMATION AND CREMATION ARE UNKNOWN IN ISLAMIC SOCIETY, AND THE DEMAND FOR SUCH SERVICES IS NON-EXISTENT LOCALLY.

6. PLEASE BE ASSURED OF THE EMBASSY'S CONTINUED EFFORTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MANAMA 01888 231118Z

TO ASSIST MRS VARJABEDIAN' TO THE FULLEST EXTENT
POSSIBLE.
POWERS

NOTE BY OC/T: MANAMA 1888 PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAMA01888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780345-0388
Format: TEL
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780833/aaaabbmh.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47cc305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANAMA 1768
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1649592
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISPOSITION OF REMAINS - JOHN ARAM VARJABEDIAN
TAGS: CDES, BA, (VARJABEDIAN, JOHN ARAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47cc305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014